

# **MaineCare Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

June 14, 2022  
10:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.  
Via Zoom

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio called to order the regular meeting of the MaineCare Advisory Committee at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **II. ROLL CALL**

Kathy Kilrain del Rio conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Kathy Kilrain del Rio; Laurie Belden; Esther Miller; Rachel Collamore; Laura Cordes; Jamie Cotnoir; Leo Delicata; Cathy Dionne; Al Durgin; Rachel Dyer; Mark Eves; Sarah Lewis; Jillian Jolicoeur; Jim Martin; Beth Pearce; Atlee Reilly; Dee Sabattus; Jeff Tiner, and Susan White.

Department: Heather Bingelis; Erik Eisele; Fran Jensen; Shannon Martin; Jenny Patterson; Michelle Probert; Catherine Stevens, and Molly Slotznick.

Guests: Albert Abena; Elizabeth Cameron; Alex Carter; Jennifer Christian; Norma Desjardins; Leslie Dyer; Kate Ende; Brooke Holton; Vicki Jessup; Karen Palleschi; Malory Shaughnessy Katherine Stevens Nicole St. Hilaire; Bonnie Vaughan.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a.) DHHS Updates With Michelle Probert**

- The Federal government has confirmed that the public health emergency will continue until mid-October. By mid-August, we should know whether it will be extended again.
- Erik noted that the end of the PHE will have significant impacts on MaineCare eligibility and other policy considerations, and MaineCare members will need to be aware of what actions they need to take. The Department will have 60 days' notice before the PHE officially ends, and the plan is to start talking with the MAC about what the impacts will be so we will be prepared when we receive word that the PHE will be ending.
- Esther noted that OFI has a communications plan laid out for MaineCare members who are at risk of losing coverage when the PHE ends if they do not take actions like updating their information.

**b.) Rate System Updates**

- The Department is working to update the draft Dental rates, as well as draft billing guidance and hopes to propose those in the very near future.
- For providers of behavioral health and targeted case management services, we have extended the deadline for provider surveys to this coming Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. If you are a provider for that range of behavioral health service or targeted case management, please complete your survey. It is in the interest of providers to participate in the process, as this is an opportunity to make sure that rates are sufficient.
- There are a number of supplemental payments for certain behavioral health services that passed with the budget as part of a BHPS change package. We are working on finalizing e-messages to send out with those details.
- There are a number of things we will be instituting as part of Ld. 1867. We will be publishing a rate schedule for the year, and you will be hearing more from the Department with postings and engagement around that schedule.
- Laurie Belden inquired if Section 63 rates are being adjusted, specifically in regards to the 125%. Michelle will reach out to OADS for an update.
- Molly noted the Department sent out an message about a new code for COVID vaccine counseling. Since the message was sent, CMS has sent out a couple of additional codes for vaccine counseling, and we are reviewing those. It may make sense for providers to pause submitting claims briefly until additional guidance is released.

**c.) The Role of Community Health Outreach Workers in PC Plus**

- Sarah Lewis inquired if an incentive will be built into Primary Care Plus that incentivizes health centers to contract with community health care workers. Michelle will invite Olivia Alford to a MAC meeting to discuss. PC Plus, which is going live on July 1, is designed to be a model that will evolve over time.
- Sara Lewis noted that hospitals are able to bill MaineCare for interpreter services that are outside of the health entity. She asked if perhaps that same model might work for billing for community health workers in terms of billing out for services using MaineCare dollars. She also suggested the possibility of a chronic illness focus. Community health workers, for example, might be most effective in impacting the care of diabetics who have difficulty adhering to their treatment plan. The focus could be on the top three chronic illnesses that populations are experiencing. Michelle noted the interpreter question is a really good one and she would like to circle back internally to talk about that.

**d.) Rulemaking/Waivers/SPA Updates With Jenny Patterson**

- Several rules have been proposed, including Section 21, Section 29, and Section 93.
- We have adopted Chapter I, Section 1, and the new PC Plus rule.
- Section 90 takes effect June 21.

- The Dental rule is in draft and coming soon. We appreciate all of the input we have received from the stakeholder engagement process. Our plan is to do an emergency rulemaking and also propose a permanent rule. There will be opportunities for public comment on the proposed rule.
- We are working to update the prior COVID emergency rule to reflect the emergency approvals we've received.

e.) **OFI Rules: Extension of Postpartum Eligibility /New Eligibility for Immigrants**

- Esther and Erik highlighted that in preparation for the PHE emergency unwinding the Department is putting together a plan to engage community based organizations to do specific outreach with a particular focus on the non-citizen eligibility groups to get the word about eligibility for immigrants.

**Items From Guests.**

None

h.) **Wrap Up**

- The next MAC meeting will be held Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. There will not be an August meeting. The election for the MAC Chair and Vice-chair will occur on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.